

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 DHA-02 ORM-02 /091 W  
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R 220822Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1395  
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 8765

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, CB  
SUBJECT: THE CAMBODIAN RESISTANCE EFFORT

REF: BANGKOK 1732

1. EMBASSY REPORTED REFTEL SUCCESSFUL KC OFFENSIVE AGAINST RESISTANCE GROUPS LOCATED INSIDE CAMBODIAN TERRITORY SOUTH OF ARANYAPRATHET. THEY HAVE APPARENTLY REPEATED THAT ACTION AGAINST WHAT WAS PROBABLY MORE SERIOUS THREAT IN PAILIN AREA OF BATTAMBANG PROVINCE, ACROSS THE BORDER FROM THAILAND'S CHANTHABURI PROVINCE.

2. NEW YORK TIMES CORRESPONDENT DAVID ANDELMAN MET LAST WEEK A 36- YEAR OLD FORMER GKR MILITIAMAN NAMED YOUNG DITH IN CAMBODIAN REFUGEE CAMP IN CHANTHABURI PROVINCE. DITH CLAIMED THAT HE WAS HEAD OF UNIFIED CAMBODIAN RESISTANCE IN THE AREA (ALTHOUGH NAMES OF MAJOR PHUM VETH AND COLONEL KETH RETH ARE THOSE ONE USUALLY HEARS). HE NOTED THAT THE CHANTHABURI/PAILIN GROUP HAD AT AONE TIME 2,000 MEN  
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UNDER ARMS, A NUMBER WHICH HAD DIMINISHED TO APPROXIMATELY 300 BY MARCH, WITH A PAUCITY OF GUNS--THESE ONLY CARBINES-- AND AMMUNITION. DITH SAID IT HAD HAD SOME FOUR CAMPS JUST INSIDE CAMBODIA. THE GROUP'S LAST SUCCESSFUL ACTION WAS ALEGEDLY AN AMBUSH OF A KC COMPANY ON FEB 9.

3. SOURCE SAID THAT KC LAUNCHED Pincer-like operation

AGAINST THE RESISTANCE GROUP'S CAMPS IN MARCH, SUCCEEDING IN OVERRUNNING THEM ON MAR 9 AND 14. NOT MENTIONING CASUALTIES, HE NOTED THAT THE GROUPS'S MEN HAD RETURNED TO THAI SOIL.

4. WE TEND TO BELIEVE STORY OF THIS SECOND SUCCESSFUL KC MOPPING-UP EFFORT THIS YEAR. THERE WERE A NUMBER OF RUMORS IN MARCH THAT THE CHANTHABURI/PAILIN RESISTANCE ELEMENT HAD RE-ENTERED THAILAND. AFP BUREAU CHIEF RECENTLY OPINED THAT CAMBODIAN RESISTANCE IS IN POOR SHAPE AND THOUGHT THAT ONLY THE SMALL GROUPS OPERATING OUT OF THE SURIN AREA WERE CONDUCTING ANY MEANINGFUL RESISTANCE.

5. CAMBODIAN RESISTANCE ELEMENTS CONTINUE TO SEEK UNITY AND RECENT REMORS AGREE THAT THEY HAVE FOUND IT. IMPORTANT IN THIS UNDERTAKING WAS FORMER GKR BG TEAP BEN, WHO SPENT ALMOST TWO MONTHS IN THAILAND TRYING TO ORGANIZE IT. HE LEFT IN EARLY APRIL, ONE STORY STATING THAT HE WAS DISCOURAGED OVER BOTH RESISTANCE PROSPECTS AND RTG SUPPORT.

6. IN SEVERAL REFUGEE INTERVIEWS, ANDELMAN FOUND INDICATIONS THAT THE KC ARE NOW MAKING A REAL EFFORT TO INCREASE SIZE OF THEIR MILITARY FORCE. ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO ESTIMATE HOW MUCH THEY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO SO, THIS WOULD BE YET ANOTHER STRIKE AGAINST THE CHANCES OF SUCCESS OF RATHER MOTLEY RESISTANCE EFFORTS TO DATE TO CHANGE THE CAMBODIAN REGIME.

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## Message Attributes

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